

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02

IGA-01 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07 MC-02 /058 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:HGHAGERTY:CW

APPROVED BY PM/SAS:JLADD

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S/AM - MR PEZZULLO

PM/SAS - MR SMITH

DOD/DSAA:MR. BETTELEY

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R 171420Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

INFO USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087894

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SP

SUBJECT: CHANGE IN FMS CATEGORY FOR SPAIN

REFS: (A) MADRID 2007 (B) STATE 43468

1. WE AGREE THAT THE GREEK ORIENTATION OF REF (B) LEAVES QUESTIONS UNANSWERED RE SPAIN; SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED WITH FOUCHE DURING HAGERTY VISIT TO MADRID EARLY APRIL, AND FOLLOWING IS OUR EFFORT TO MEET YOUR PROBLEM.

2. AS YOU KNOW, SHIFTING SPAIN FROM CATEGORY A TO CATEGORY B -- AND THIS ONLY FOR MAJOR CAPITAL OR END ITEMS (LIKE F-4S) -- IS A DEVICE, WITHIN THE USG, TO ENSURE THAT THE DEPT OF STATE HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW FMS AND RELATED REQUESTS, LETTERS OF OFFER, ETC. WHICH HAVE POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS BEFORE THEY ARE COMMUNICATED DIRECTLY TO THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT. THE SHIFT IN PROCEDURES HAS NO PEJORATIVE OR PUNITIVE

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IMPLICATIONS. WITH AN ACTIVE NEGOTIATION UNDERWAY TO

CONTINUE OUR USE OF BASES IN SPAIN AND WITH DEFINITE
LIMITS ON THE KINDS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE QUID PRO
QUO WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO MUSTER TO SUPPORT A NEW AGRE-
MENT, IT IS INCUMBENT ON US NOT TO OVERLOOK ITEMS OF
POTENTIAL QUID VALUE, HOWEVER MARGINAL THEY MAY SEEM.

3. SPANISH HERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN INFORMED OF CHANGE
IN PROCEDURES, WHICH SIMPLY INVOLVES SENDING REQUESTS
TO STATE (PM/SAS) AS WELL AS TO DOD. SHOULD GOS OFFICIALS
ASK, THE CHANGE IS EXPLAINABLE SIMPLY AS A BUREAUCRATIC
SHIFT AIMED AT ENSURING THAT THE DEPT OF STATE IS AWARE
OF THE ROUTINE FLOW OF TRAFFIC REGARDING ARMS SALES,
DATA, EXCHANGE, AND INQUIRIES BECAUSE OF THEIR POSSIBLE
RELATIONSHIP TO ARRANGEMENTS WE HOPE TO WORK OUT FOR
THE FUTURE. SPANISH CAN BE ASSURED THAT THE DUAL
REQUESTS (TO STATE AND DOD) CREATE NO DELAY AND NO
ADDITIONAL COST SAVE THE POSTAGE. WE HOPE THIS WILL
NOT POSE PROBLEMS FOR SPANISH GOVERNMENT, BUT IN ANY
EVENT WE MUST RESERVE THE RIGHT OURSELVES TO ESTABLISH
AND, IF NECESSARY, CHANGE FMS PROCEDURES AS WE FIND
APPROPRIATE TO OUR INTERESTS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE087894
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HGHAGERTY:CW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750135-0254
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750441/aaaabmdb.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MADRID 2007, 75 STATE 43468
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHANGE IN FMS CATEGORY FOR SPAIN
TAGS: MASS, SP
To: MADRID
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006